

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program Resources

*Disseminated monthly by the
U. S. Department of Labor, Office of National Programs,
Division of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program
200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210
<http://wdsc.doleta.gov/msfw>*

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May

Upcoming Events

- June 8-10 "Successful Rural Employment and Training in a One-Stop Environment" Delta Association for Rural Initiatives 14th Annual Conference. Biloxi, MS
- June 8-10 Heartland Symposium, St. Louis, MO
- June 30-July 2 "Shooting the Rapids: Outfitting Youth Services for the Future" U.S. DHHS, Administration for Children and Families Family Youth Services Bureau. Chicago, Illinois.
- July 19- 21 Workforce Innovations 2004. San Antonio, Texas
www.workforceinnovations.org
- August 12-15 "Empowering the Nonprofit Sector." 2004 Alliance Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
www.allianceonline.org/annual_conference

An additional Workforce System-Wide Calendar of Events provided by the Employment and Training Administration, <http://www.workforcetools.org/calendar.asp>, can also be found on the "Workforce Tools for the Trade," a USDOL website designed to help workforce development professionals excel.

U.S. DHHS, Administration for Children and Families Family Youth Services Bureau has scheduled a conference for June 30-July 2, 2004 in Chicago. "Shooting the Rapids: Outfitting Youth Services for the Future" will bring together over 200 social service providers from throughout a six state area to discuss, learn, share, and present the most up-to-date information regarding effective strategies in working with youth. The conference is sponsored by the Youth Network Council/Region V, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

Department Initiatives

ETA Seeks Comments on Extension of Workforce Information Core Products and Services Planning Guidance

Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act as amended by Section 309 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-220), requires state agencies to consult with customers about the relevance of the information disseminated through the statewide employment statistics system, in order to continuously improve the system. To carry out this requirement and to increase accountability for the expenditure of grant funds for workforce information, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) submitted an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on August 15, 2002, proposing that beginning in PY 2002, a condition for receiving grant funds would be a requirement that states conduct an assessment of customer satisfaction with state produced workforce information products and services and include a summary of the results of the assessment and a description of any actions to be taken to improve the system in a required annual performance report.

States were also required to provide additional narrative in the annual grant plan, describing the statewide employment statistics system and how the system supports the State's WIA/Wagner-Peyser Five Year Strategic Plan, and a description of the State's planned strategy for assessing customer satisfaction with state produced workforce information. The OMB approved the information collection for 390 days on November 5, 2002, with an expiration date of December 31, 2003. OMB has granted an extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2004.

ETA is currently soliciting comments concerning the proposed continuation of the collection of information for the reporting requirements specified in the [PY 2002 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Planning Guidance](#), issued on January 9, 2003. The same PY 2002 information collection requirements are also required by the [PY 2003 Workforce Information Core Products and Services Planning Guidance](#), issued on October 15, 2003. The [May 12 FEDERAL REGISTER](#) provides full background and outlines the desired focus for comments. Comments should be submitted on or before July 12 to Mr. Anthony Dais, Chief, Division of USES/ ALMIS, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Rm. S-4231, Washington, DC 20210, 202-693-2784 (this is not a toll-free number) or dais.anthony@dol.gov.

Regional Announcements

REGION II

- **Call Center To Open In Virginia:** StarTek, Inc., a business outsourcing company based in Denver, Colorado, announced it will

establish a new in-bound call center in Lynchburg, Virginia. The company will be making a \$5.5 million investment in the new operation creating 542 full-time jobs over the next year. The hope is that the center will be operational in five months.

- **Virginia Manufacturing Expansion:** Joy Mining Machinery is adding 45 new jobs in Scott County. It will build a new facility adjacent to its current manufacturing space in Duffield, while investing \$1.4 million in this project that will create the new jobs in the process.
- **Nanomanufacturing Plant to be Built in Virginia:** Blacksburg based Luna Innovations announced it will invest \$6.4 million to build one of the nation's first nanomanufacturing plants in a former tobacco warehouse in Danville. The new operation will create 54 jobs.
- **Housing Manufacturer to Build in Virginia:** Timber Truss Housing System will build a new manufacturing facility in Orange County, Virginia. The company will invest \$5.3 million in the project. The plant will initially employ 56 workers and increase that number to 93 after the first of the year. Operation is expected in December.
- **Distribution Facility in Virginia to Expand:** Cost Plus, Inc., a retailer with over \$800 million in annual sales, has announced that it will double the size of its distribution facility in Isle of Wight County. The company will invest \$24 million and create 190 new jobs as it increases the facility to 1 million square feet.
- **Corporate Headquarters Moving to Pennsylvania:** Olympus America will move its corporate headquarters from New York City to Upper Saucon Township, PA. This headquarters move will create 800 jobs over the next three years.

REGION III

Georgetown, South Carolina, Company Announces 70 New Jobs:

Screen Tight, a company that makes and distributes systems for screening porches, will be adding 70 new jobs after buying an Arizona company. Screen Tight recently bought Phoenix-based Royal Wood and plans to use the company's unique technology to make stronger and more stable products.

General Electric to Add 180 Jobs in Greenville, South Carolina:

General Electric will invest \$120 million and add at least 180 jobs in Greenville this year, including engineers who design electricity-producing turbines and production workers making blades for jet engines. Additional 90 to 170 aircraft jobs could be added within the next several

years if demand continues to grow. The new jobs follow layoffs affecting 1,050 workers since 2002, when demand for the massive natural gas-fired turbines tanked. Turbines for electricity are similar to jet engines, and some of the workers who lost their jobs might qualify for aircraft production.

Canada-based Mitchell Plastics to Bring 65 Jobs to Huntsville, Alabama: Mitchell Plastics, a division of Canadian-based Ultra Manufacturing, Ltd., will open its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Huntsville, with plans to start shipping parts to the automotive industry by July. About 65 people will be hired at first and the company expects the number of employees to increase within a year. Plant jobs will pay between \$8 and \$10 per hour to start. Mitchell Plastics will make, assemble and paint parts for the automotive industry in the 110,000-square-foot facility in Chase Industrial Park.

Hyundai Supplier Picks Alabama Site: SAFA, a supplier for the Hyundai plant in Montgomery, will locate in Tallassee, eventually creating as many as 80 jobs. SAFA System LLC became the fourth automotive supplier to locate in Tallassee this year. SAFA, which aims for a May start-up, supplies automation machinery and equipment.

Packaging Company Plans to Add Workers in Greenville, South Carolina: Innovative Container, a container manufacturing and reconditioning company, said it will hire an additional 40 workers and invest up to \$2 million in the next three years. The company, located in Greenville, South Carolina, has 80 workers who ship industrial packaging. The company has more than tripled its gross revenues in each of the past two years.

Two New Company Expansions in Miami-Dade County - American Sales and Management and Cigarette Racing Team-Will Add More Jobs: American Sales and Management (ASM) is an aviation support services company that began operations at Miami International Airport in 1994. The company provides cabin cleaning, baggage delivery, customer/passenger services and ground handling at MIA, as well as five other airports across the country. American Sales and Management currently employs 900 employees in Miami-Dade County and plans to expand their workforce by an additional 300 new jobs over the next 12 months. The company will make a capital investment of approximately \$100,000, and will occupy 27,000 new square feet of space.

Cigarette Racing Team manufactures high-end racing boats in Miami-Dade County: Cigarette has moved its world headquarters facility

from "Thunderbolt Row" in northwest Miami-Dade County to a nearby facility in Opa-locka, and will continue to design and manufacture state-of-the-art speedboats in Miami-Dade County. The company will make a capital investment of over \$2.5 million, and plans to create an additional 15 new jobs over the next three years, adding to its current workforce of 108 employees.

LEASA Industries Will Add 65 New Jobs in Miami, Florida: LEASA Industries is close to completing construction of its 30,000-square-foot facility expansion which was made possible by a \$1.6 million equity investment by the Empowerment Trust. As one of the largest growers of bean and alfalfa sprouts and the largest producer of tofu in Florida, LEASA needed the expansion to accommodate its rapidly growing sales which totaled nearly \$5 million in 2002. Located in the Poinciana Industrial Park, this expansion is expected to create 65 new jobs for residents of the Liberty City/Model City Empowerment Zone.

Expansion of Bargain Town Flea Market Will Create More Jobs in Miami, Florida: Bargain Town Flea Market recently concluded its renovation and expansion. Eighty-four jobs were created throughout the renovation phase. Additionally, Bargain Town is in the process of receiving funds to construct a Farmer's Market which will house a 7-restaurant, open-air food court featuring '*slow home-cooking*' and an extensive wine collection. Each restaurant will be owned and operated by minority entrepreneurs who have committed to conduct training classes for local culinary students.

New Shopping Center in the Wynwood Empowerment Zone in Miami Will Create 1,500 New Jobs: A \$20.6 million loan to facilitate the remediation and development of the approximately 56 acre Florida East Coast Railroad site (Buena Vista Railyard) located in the Wynwood Empowerment Zone was recently approved. The project's infrastructure costs are approximately \$101 million. This mixed-use development will feature the "Shops at Midtown" shopping center, 8 condominium buildings (including 80 affordable housing units), and a parking structure. Approximately 1,500 jobs will be created--51% will be for low to moderate income persons. Furthermore, there will be a 20% minority contractor participation goal.

New Parrot Jungle Island in Watson Island Near Miami Beach Will Employ More People: Just over half a year since inaugurating its new location on Watson Island, Parrot_Jungle Island is continuing to enjoy the benefits of its new, strategic location. The Watson Island location is more accessible to tourists visiting Miami Beach and cruise line passengers. This site is also an Empowerment Zone, which offers financial incentives, tax incentives, and proximity to a large labor force of Empowerment Zone

residents. At the time of its grand opening in June, over 382 jobs had already been created. Their goal is to employ more than 600 people over a three-year period.

Coalton, Kentucky, Steel Mill Set to Reopen Its Melt Shop: Plans to reopen another operation at the Kentucky Electric Steel plant will create several dozen more jobs and complete the mill's comeback. Melt-shop production at the northeastern Kentucky plant is expected to start soon, adding about 50 jobs. The melt shop will enable the company to make its own billets -- steel ingots that are rolled into bar flats. The company has been buying billets on the open market. The new production will bring total employment to about 100 at the recently restarted plant. KES' new ownership restarted the plant's rolling operations in January. The plant was closed in late 2002 after its previous owner declared bankruptcy.

DuPont to Add 40 Jobs at Fayetteville, North Carolina, Plant: DuPont will spend \$15 million and add 40 jobs at its Fayetteville Works to make a new product for safety glass. The announcement comes two weeks after DuPont said it would eliminate 3,500 jobs, or about 6 percent of its global workforce, by the end of the year. The cutbacks are part of previously announced plans to cut costs. DuPont plants in Fayetteville were not affected. The DuPont Fayetteville Works employs about 460 DuPont workers and 200 contract employees. DuPont Teigin Films U.S. Limited Partnership on Cedar Creek Road employs about 80. The new manufacturing line at Fayetteville Works will make SentryGlas Plus, a brand name for a new plastic, and should begin production in early 2005. The plastic is used in safety glass, such as windows designed to withstand hurricanes. DuPont's Fayetteville Works makes Butacite, also a plastic used in safety glass, and Nafion, a plastic membrane used to separate fuel cell compartments.

Auto Supplier Fukoku to Add 50 Jobs in Laurens, South Carolina: Fukoku South Carolina, Incorporated, an auto supplier in Laurens, will expand its facility in the Hunter Industrial Park. The expansion will add an additional 55,000 square feet to the facility and bring approximately 50 new jobs to Laurens County. The capital investment is estimated to be approximately \$7 million. The expansion is scheduled for completion in June. Fukoku South Carolina, Incorporated, which came to Laurens County in 2001, manufactures rubber parts used in the automotive industry and is a subsidiary of Fukoku of Japan, which has facilities in Japan, Korea and Indonesia.

AirTran Opens Georgia Call Center: AirTran Airways has opened a new call center in Carrollton that will employ about 200 people. At a time when Delta Air Lines and other employers have come under fire for outsourcing such jobs in overseas operations in India and other countries,

this makes the third call center AirTran has opened in Georgia, home to about 4,000 of its 5,600 employees.

Atria to Expand and Add 85 Jobs in Louisville: Atria Senior Living Group, one of the nation's largest assisted-living companies, is expanding its Louisville headquarters and adding about 85 employees. The company has already begun to fill the new jobs, which will pay an average of \$50,000 to \$60,000 each. Some of the functions of recently closed offices in other states are being centralized in Louisville, including training, marketing, human resources and business analysis.

Accounts Receivable Management Will Create 50 More Jobs in Louisville: Louisville will also gain 50 jobs from another project for Accounts Receivable Management, a New Jersey credit and collection company, that plans to open a 10,000-square-foot call center. The pay will average more than \$30,000.

Angus Davis Industries to Add 45 Jobs in Calvert City, Kentucky: Houston-based Angus Davis Industries is expanding its Calvert City operations and adding 45 workers to rebuild and sell used industrial lifts nationwide. The new building will take about a month to complete. The workers will be hired in the next 12 to 18 months as ADI adds sandblasting and paint shop work to accommodate rapid sales growth. The expansion will take place on 10 acres on Gilbertsville Road. The jobs will pay an average of \$15 an hour.

Viscotec to Add 140 Jobs in Burke County, North Carolina: Viscotec Automotive Products, which makes fabrics for car interiors, is planning a \$20 million plant expansion that will bring 140 new jobs to Burke County. A subsidiary of Japan-based Seiren Co., Viscotec fabrics are used in Nissan, Toyota and Honda car seats, and the company soon will start making products for Mitsubishi and Mazda. The expansion will bring the company's investment in the area to \$74 million and will increase its workforce to about 300 people by 2005.

Springboard Adding Workers in North Carolina: Springboard Managed Hosting, the data-center operator built from the rubble of a dot-com failure, is changing its name, adding workers and considering expansion. The Cary Company will become Hosted Solutions in September to better reflect its strategy. Springboard, which employs 31, plans to increase its rolls by as many as 12 workers in the coming weeks to keep up with demand. Most of those positions will be added in the Triangle.

REGION V

Detroit News reported **General Motors Corp and Ford Motor Co** will pump \$720 million into three plants — including two in Metro Detroit — and preserve hundreds of manufacturing jobs under a previously announced deal to build six-speed automatic transmissions. The companies announced Monday the deal will benefit three manufacturing sites — GM's Warren transmission plant, and Ford's Sterling Heights and Sharonville, Ohio, transmission factories. The deal secures 1,100 jobs, including 900 in Michigan.

Other Announcements

Progress Report on Reauthorization of Economic Development Act; Economic Development America Focuses on "Regionalism: Maximizing Effective Partnerships for Economic Development"

David Sampson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, has recently addressed the progress of the legislative branch of the reauthorization of the Economic Development Act while providing an overview on the updated EDA core mission and value statement.

EDA has also released its second issue of [*Economic Development America*](#). This issue -- with a theme of "Regionalism: Maximizing Effective Partnerships for Economic Development" -- includes:

- Expanding Boundaries -- Opportunities for Innovative Regional Economic Development Strategies
- Michael Porter on Essential Elements for Regional Competitiveness and the Role of the Inner City
- Growing an Economy in Clusters
- Growing Forward: Northwest North Carolina's Regional Approach to Economic Development
- Enterprising Capital -- Bringing the Knowledge-Based Economy Home
- Florida's New Cornerstone Initiative: Regionalism in Action
- Advancing Regional Prosperity through Innovation
- The Effects of Bank Mergers on Economic Development Organizations -
- Good, Bad or Somewhere in Between
- The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians: Regional Economic Development Among Six States and 54 Governments
- Effective Regional Recruitment: Jacksonville and Florida's First Coast

Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Partnership Initiative for Community Health Care Workers

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation has launched an initiative with the Health Education -Industry Partnership (HEIP), a project of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), to develop a standardized accredited community health worker training program. The program aims to reduce cultural and linguistic barriers to health care, improve quality and cost effectiveness of care, and increase the diversity of the health care workforce in an increasingly diverse Minnesota. This is the first training program of its kind in our state.

The foundation's work with HEIP includes a \$199,774 grant to HEIP to fund collaborative work to develop a community health worker career path - including standardized curriculum, student recruitment, and links with the employment market. HEIP is hosted in the College of Allied Health and Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Community health workers perform a broad range of health-related functions, such as health education in clinics and neighborhoods. They also work with health care organizations to increase cultural competence, improve access to healthcare for racial and ethnic minorities in Minnesota, improve the quality of care for chronically ill individuals, promote healthy communities, and educate families about access to and use of health care coverage.

Research has found that patients who speak a primary language other than English and don't have access to an interpreter are less likely to access preventive care, seek cancer screening, keep appointments or comply with treatment.

In 2003, Blue Cross Foundation studies of community health workers and the organizations that employ them found that these bicultural, bilingual workers are widely used and valued in Minnesota. Employers find them very effective in helping to provide services to racial and ethnic populations. Employers also support standardized training and intend to hire more community health workers in the next three years. Accordingly, the Blue Cross Foundation's grant to HEIP also aims to increase and diversify the health care workforce in Minnesota, in order to meet worker shortages and address racial disparities in health.

For more information about HEIP or community health worker training, contact Anne Willaert, Project Director, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 102 Wiecking Center, Mankato, MN, 56001, 507 389-2590, anne.willaert@mnsu.edu .

New Law in Florida Provides Migrant Worker Protection

An article published in the Herald Tribune in Florida on May 3, written by Bill Rufty, indicates a measure was approved by the Florida legislature designed to provide protections for farm workers in Florida.

The bill protects migrant laborers from labor contractors, requiring that they receive clear information on pesticides in the fields and groves they work and creates commissions to improve their safety and living conditions. It provides also includes penalties for labor contractors who cheat or mistreat farm workers. For example, the contractors, who provide the migrant labor to farm and grove owners, must keep accurate daily records, reflecting the hours worked and the amount paid to each worker. The bill prevents the labor contractor from taking retaliatory action against any person who has filed a labor complaint. Farm workers can not be forced to purchase goods or services for the contractor. The bill also authorizes the governor's office to consult with migrant and seasonal workers and their employers on ways to improve living and working conditions.

In addition, it creates a new Legislative Commission on Migrant and Seasonal Labor to supervise and coordinate migrant labor programs geared to improve living conditions, health, housing and sanitation, labor laws, education, transportation safety and public assistance.

A Message from WorkforceUSA.net.

The May newsletter has just been posted on WorkforceUSA.net. It includes information on two new reports (one on the California workforce development system and another offering recommendations for Learning Partnerships), a certified workforce development professional credential with a competency on business and employer knowledge, a website for finding free computers and other technology, a directory of career path programs, tools for assisting women with financial planning and to assist disabled youth, and resources for sector work in health and manufacturing. The newsletter can be found at <http://www.workforceusa.net/uploads/Newsletter-May04.pdf> or by going to "Newsletters" in User Resources at www.workforceusa.net.

Publications and Other Resources

GETTING TO WORK: A REPORT ON HOW WORKERS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH SKILLS CAN PREPARE FOR NEW JOBS

With immigrants making up to approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population--the highest percentage since 1930--many are seeking ways to accelerate the process by which workers with Limited English

Proficiency (LEP) obtain better paying jobs. Most skills training programs for these jobs require participants to have a high level of proficiency in English--a significant barrier for many immigrants.

With support from the Joyce Foundation, Getting to Work profiles eight (8) programs that combine language and occupational training to prepare LEP workers for their communities' better jobs. This report draws some important practice and policy conclusions that have implications for both workforce development practitioners and immigrant advocates.

Download a copy of Getting to Work from the Institute's website: www.workingforamerica.org or respond to this email to have a copy of the report mailed to you.

NetAssets: Intelligence for Workforce Development Professionals

NetAssets is a free workforce development trade journal, reaching over 8000 private and public employees, a resource that will not only keep you updated on the latest industry trends but will sometimes even entertain you. Published by the Human Resource Management, Inc. provides information and resources for workforce development professionals across the country. For additional information about this publication can be found at www.hrms.net

Funding Opportunities

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Mercedes-Benz USA Scholarship Program: First National Program of Its Kind Awards \$500,000 to College-Bound Seniors

MONTVALE, N.J. – In conjunction with National Scholarship Month, Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) announced that it has launched a national scholarship program to provide educational assistance to students who will be the first in their families to attend college. The program, called DRIVE YOUR FUTURE: The Mercedes-Benz USA Scholarship Program, will make \$500,000 in funding available to students through support from MBUSA and fundraising activities of its dealers.

Graduating high school seniors who will be the first in their families to attend college or vocational school are being invited to apply for scholarships through a nationwide mailing to high schools across the country. DRIVE YOUR FUTURE will invite students to apply for \$2,000, one-time scholarships. Three students in each state will receive

scholarships in addition to students from various youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, FIRST, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Virtual Enterprises, the Mal Washington Foundation, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Young Women's Leadership School and Automotive High School. Over 250 scholarships will be awarded in 2004.

DRIVE YOUR FUTURE scholarship applicants will be evaluated based on academic achievement (a grade point average of 3.0 or higher), financial need, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities. Honors, work experience, goals and aspirations and unusual personal or family circumstances will also be considered.

Applications and detailed information regarding DRIVE YOUR FUTURE: The Mercedes-Benz USA Scholarship Program may be downloaded by visiting www.mbusa.com/drivefuture. Completed applications must be submitted to Scholarship America by June 11, 2004. DRIVE YOUR FUTURE scholarship recipients will be selected in July, and scholarships for the Fall semester will be awarded in August.

We welcome your input. Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Gloria Salas-Kos (salas-kos.gloria@dol.gov).